

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please add the following paragraphs under the section entitled "BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS" beginning on line 21 of page 2:

The present invention may be better understood, and its numerous objects, features, and advantages made apparent to those skilled in the art by referencing the accompanying drawings.

Fig. 1 illustrates, in block diagram form, an exemplary local switching network;

Fig. 2 illustrates an exemplary frame used in the network shown in Figure 1;

Fig. 3 Figure 3 shows a local switching network in block diagram form including three line cards coupled to a switching fabric;

Fig. 4 shows one embodiment of a local switch that may be employed in a line card of Figure 3;

Fig. 5 illustrates operational aspects of the local switch shown in Figure 4;

Fig. 6 illustrates a local switching network containing two switching fabrics;

Fig. 7 is a block diagram illustrating one embodiment of a local switch that may be found within a line card of Figure 6;

Fig. 8 represents operational aspects of a frame flow from one end device coupled to a card of Figure 6 to another end device coupled to another card.

The use of the same reference symbols in different drawings indicates similar or identical items.

Please add the following heading before the paragraph beginning on line 22 of page 2:

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION**